

A DAUGHTER OF CHERRY HILL.

An American Drama

In Four Acts.

By

MRS IVAR LEVINSONN.

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240-01/34 St.

Characters:

Mr Canton.
Mr Canton.
Mr Longworth.
Richard Longworth.
James Longworth.
Mike.
Pred; the butler.
Leonore Longworth.
Carol Canton.

Scene: A room in a very poor tenement. There is very little furniture in it: and it's general appearance is wretched. A woman is lying on a couch, apparently asleep: she is very pale and haggard looking. As curtain rises Jim, the woman's husband, enters half drunk, looks around, throws off hat and walks over to the stove.

Jim higheouphing, As usual, not a bit of fire in the damn stove.

That girl is more of an ornament around the house than a
help. He looks over to the couch, Hello, you laying around
tooks Ferguson sent a postal; she expects to have a day's
work for you tomorrow.

Mrs Cfeebly, Perhaps I will be able to go to her tomorrow.

Jim gruffly, Perhaps. No perhaps about it; if you don't go, we'll starve. I can'tget a dammed thing to do, except sweep a saloon; then I don't get money for it. I get a drink; and that girl o' yourn, she don't make enough to pay the rent, so how are we going to live?

Mrs cPlease don't worry me now; I feel too sick to listen to it.

Jim Be-gosh, you're always sick. I wish I was you and you was me
then one of us would be working.

MrsC Give me a little water, Jim, will you?

Jim Wait till I mrite light me pipe. He begins filling his pipe.
Mrs C sinks limply back on her pillow.

Enter Carol with two bundles of wood and a pail of coal, dar throws off ragged coat and Now, mother dear, you'll soon be warm. She begins fixing fire.

Jim Where did you get the wood and coal?

Car I scrubbed up the dutch grocer's store for it.

- Jim Did nt he have any more scrubbin' to do?
- dar Yes, he did; but I would nt do it. I would nt trust mother to your care when she is ailing so bad.

 The wood is beginning to crackle.
- Jim You can trust tor me allright; you jist go over there and finish up the job. I'll take care o' her til yer git back.
- car throws coal on fire then looks up at her father. The work at the grocery is to clean the show-windows, to drag the barrels and clean the cellar. You're better fit to do that work than me.
- Jim removes pipe from mouth, Look at her trying to teach her own father.
- car comes over to him, I am not trying ter teach you, dad; I am only trying to save my mother. Look at her; can't you see she is fadin' fast. She's all I got, dad. You and me ain't never been friends; and tain't likely we ever will be, so, when she's gome, I am all alone, dad; She sobs, All alone.

 A few moments silence.
- Jim I say, girl, will the grocer let me do the job for him? Car looks up at him, surprised, Just tell him carol sent you.
- Jim picks up hat and goes over to stove and loks at fire You need; nt be afeared ter burn all the coal; I'll fetch some more. He goes over and looks at his wife. She might be wantin' a cup o' toa. Ask Mrs Harney for some; I'll give it back ter her to-night. He leaves.
- Car I reached his heart again, but it will only last till ternight ter-morrow he'll ferget all the good in him. She goes over to her mother. She's asleep; how pale she is. She touches her hand. She's cold as ice. She takes everything she can

find, even the old table cloth and the skirt she is wearing, and covers her mother with it. She then runs over to the fire throws in the rest of the coal, and accidentally drops the pail on the floor. She looks over at her mather. She must be sound asleep not ter hear this darned thing fall. Shows . warms her hands over fire. Gee, but this feels bully; it's like life over again. She sighs. I would nt want life over again as it is now; it's just as well ter be dead as ter live like this. She sits down on a chair near the stove. I sometimes git to thinking about mother when she was as old two as I am now. She used ter tell me how her mother used ter soold her because she would nt eat chicken. Just think of Iit; she would nt eat chicken. She smacks her lips, well, I'd be satisfied with a bite of corned beef, if it did 'nt stink. Yes, that's one thing about mother and me; we'd eat thusome damned cheap stuff, but nothing rotten. No. She sits thinking a few moments, then says slowly, I wish I could have faith in them fairy tales mother used ter read ter me. It was so nice imaginin' I seen them faiteis coming along with all . them nice things for us; but even that's gone. Even the imaginin' o' something good is gone away from me, and all that's left is my poor mother, and I am afraid she is going away from me too. She jumps up. No, I can get alond without the ochicken and without the fairles, but I can't get along without me mother. If I lose her a pause then I'll stop thinkin' detracto 1. God. I won't even say me prayers rand ald bedones I was gave A knockson the door is heard a terror if on weren-not car startles, I wonder who it can be? She stops to think. Oh, yes, it's the landlord again coming for his rent, and I atn't

got any ter give him. A pause. I'll make beleve I am out. She stands still. Another knock is heard. Darn his buttons, he'll wake mother if he keeps that up. Another knock. I'll have to open the door before he wakes her. She opens door slowly. Enter land lord.

Car I- I- I did't hear you knock, sir; yer- yer see the water
was runnin' and it makes such a noise you can hear nothing
else'

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- Mrs. Harney was telling me your mother is very ill, and you are very poor, so I came in to see what I could do for you. She startles, her eyes begin to brighten, she is almost too happy to speak.
- Vorkin' for them, but I see they have. Yes, sir, my poor mother is very sick, and I can't pay the rent; not this week anyway, perhaps next week mother will feel better; then I kin go ter work, and sure as my name is carol I'll pay it to you as soon as I get it. Yer won't—yer wen't turn us out?
- Mr L Of course not; you may stay as long as you like and pay when you can.
- I'll pray for you every night of my life. She runs over toxar her mother. Mother, mother, wake up. I've got such good news for you' I can't wait ter tell you. She takes hold of her mother's hand and shakes it. Wake up, wake up, mother; you'l be so glad—She looks at her mother wildly, as she drops the limp hand. Mr L., there is something wrong with my mother. She runs to other side of bed, where she can touch her mother's face. As she does so she screams aloud. Oh, Mr L. her face is as cold as death. She throws her arms abund her

mother's neckerying: Mother. Mother, we found a friend at last; open your eyes and look at him. Oh, for God's sake, mother, don't frighten me so. Open your eyes, please. please open your eyes. She looks at her mother's face wildly. Oh, my God, my mother is dying. She runs over to Mr L., and falls on her knees, crying: Please, please get a doctor oh, please do.

Mr L. goes over to her mother, picks up her hand, lays it down again; takes out handkerchief to brush away a tear, then goes over to the girl.

Mr L looks at Carol tenderly, My dear child, your mother is beyoud all medical help.

car You mean-

Mr L I mean she is dead.

Car stunned, whispers, Dead?

Mr L bows head, Yes, my poor child; she is dead.
Carol, as if in a dream, walks over to her mother.

car looking at mother, Oh, mother, how could you go away without even saying good-bye? You never let me go to sleep till I kissed yer, and now—she weeps—now you went ter sleep ferever without kissing yer own dear girl. She wails and throws herself on the bed.

Mr L. goes over lifts her up, and takes her in his arms.
Mr L Little girl, if your mother had her wretched life to live
over again, would you care to bring her back to life?

I'm a big girl now, and when she was well enough to be left alone I could earn enough to keep her; besides she did nt live for herself at all. She lived for me, and now, now she is gone, gone to all the angels, while I am left here all

- alone, all alone, she weeps.
- Mr L You're not all-together alone, you have a father.
- He fooled my mother inter marriage with him, pretendin' he was a rich gentleman, and when her money was all gone he began to abuse her, and kept it up till today. Oh, my poor, poor mother, she weeps.
 - Mr L aside, I always thought there was something refined about Mrs Canton. He stops to think, then calls gently: Carol. Carol looks up tearstained and haggard.
 - Mr Ldarol, I will see that your mother's last resting place be a decent one.
 - car sobs, Oh. please, please let her stay with me as long as possible. You know, when once she passes through that door I will never see her dear face again.
 - Wr L brushes away a tear, She will stay as long as the undertaker will mammit permit. I will send my daughter to you; she will stay and comfort you.
 - Car goes over to Mr L. How happy your girl must be with such a father.
 - Mr L Carol, if, when all is over here, you would care to share my Leonore's happiness, I will gladly take you to my home.
- dar runs over to her mother's bedside, crying: Oh, mother, mother, try to hear me. I am not alone, dear, I am not alone.

 She falls on bed, weeping.

- Scene: Library in Mr Longworth's home.
- Leonore is writing at desk; her brother, James, is hunting up a book.
- Jame So you are really going to bring that poor house-girl in here, are you?
- Leo That poor house girl, as you call her, had a mother who was a lady, James.
- Jame Perhaps; but we ske have nt much proof of that, though we do have proof, that her father is common drumbard, a salcon mop.
- Leo If she had her way about it, she would have chosen a father like ours.
- Jame Whew; You must have been reading Benhard Shaw.
- Leo Perhaps I have, and perhaps I think he is right.
- Jame Well, I don't and never will.
- Leo Well, I don't know as Mr Shaw will worry very much about it.
 You see, he tries to pehetrate liberal minds.
- Jame throws book on the floor, I'll see, that you don't read any more of Shaw.
- Leo Aleck says I man read them; and, you know, father approves of Aleck's choice of reading matter.
- Jame Dear, saintly Aleck, what does he think of bringing the girl, whose mother thought she was a lady, into this house?
- Leo rises, amony, Now, look here, James; that poor girl's mother is dead and laid to rest. She never troubled you or yours, so you will please respect her memory, at least in my presence
- Mr L enters, looks at both children, I hope, you have not been quarreling again.
- Jame No. we are not quarreling; but I can't see why you will bring

an ignorant, girl whose father is nothing but a drunkard, into this house as a companion for your daughter. Why, she'll make us the laughing stock of society.

Mr L Well, I don't know about that. I think she possesses more sense and beauty than the little fancy-bred dogs some of the ladies carry around with them. If each one of those little useless animals were replaced with some little orphan child how many dear little lives would be made happy.

Jame Then you class this girl with mere little pups?

- Mr L If we will give her the love and care that is wasted on those pups we will succeed in making her very happy.
- Lee goes over to her father and kisses him, I am so proud of you, father.
- Jame Have it your way; I hope you will not regret it.

 He goes to the door, and comes face to face with his brothur and Carol.

Fred This is Miss Carol.

Carol is dressed in an ugly calico gown, tied at the waist with an old black ribbon. She wears an old jacket with a black rag around the arm. Her hat is of straw, with some black trimmings and ribbons falling the back of it. In all, her appearant is most laughable, yet deplomable. She carries a little package, which she holds tightly, and as she looks at the family and the splender of it all, she is frightened most out of her wits.

James draws back a step or two, and endeavors not to laugh.

Leo goes over to Carol and holds out her hand, dome right in,

Carol. She leads her in. Carol is very uncomfortable, and

keeps on looking at James. Leonore takes bundle from her.

Car Please don't take the bundle from me; my mother's picture is

in it.

- Les I am not going to keep it, dear; I only wanted to make you comfortable.
- Bar I can't be very comfortable with those eyes staring at me, as if I was an escaped lunatic.
- Jame Oh, if I am causing you any annoyance I'll withdraw. He goes to the door.
- Mr L calls to him, James, before you go I would like Carol and you to shake hands. Carol is nervous. James comes forward. Carol begins removing ragged glove. Leonore leads Carol to James. They shaks hands.
- Jame I hope you will like your new home.
- dar And I hope you're sorry you laughed at me.
- Jame bites his lip, whispers, I am sorry. He goes to the door, and walks out slowly.
- Leo Take off your hat, dardl, come, sit down, and do try to feel at home.
- Mr L Yes, I want you to begin at once to consider yourself one of the family. You have seen us all but one, my oldest son.
- Leo I know you will like him. He is good and charitable, and he was glad to hear you were coming to stay with us.

 Enter Rochard. Leonore sees him first.
- Leo There he is. She runs over and takes his hand. Come, let me introduce you to Carol. She leads him over to Carol, who is very nervous. This is mt big brother, Richard.
- car to R. as he holds out his hand, I hope you won't be sorry because I came.
- Rich I'm quite sure I won't be sorry; you will make a delightful companion for Leonore.

carol looks after him as he walks towards his father.

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- Leo whispers, How do you like him, Carol?
- dar whispers, He's like one of those hero- fellows in a novel.
- Rich to his father, quietly, She's a begutiful girl, father, and when she will be dreased in better clothes there will be no trace of coarseness about her.
- Mr L By- the way, Leonore, have nt any of the dresses arrived yet?
- Leo No; I have telephoned twice. They said they would hurry as much as possible, but nothing has arrived as yet.
- Rich Why, Leonore, I should think Carol could wear some of your clothes. You must still some black dresses; it is not so very long that we are out of mourning.
- Leo Why, yes, I never thought of that, dome along, darol, we'll soon find semething to fit you; you see, it's only two years my mother is dead, and there must be some black dresses in the wardrobe. She takes Carol by the hand, dome along, dear.
- Car I wonder if I am asleep anddreaming.
- Leo No, you're wide awake; so come along, dear, come along. She drags Carol by the hand, who keeps on looking at the men in a bewildered manner. When they reach the door, Carol suddenly reminds herself.
- Car Oh, mu bundle. It might be misplaced.

 Richard picks up the bundle and gives ht to her. She takes it from him, looking into his face with a deep look of absolute trust. She turns her head and goes in with Leonore.
- Rich to his father, Father, I think that little girl will bring sunsh ine into our home. Leonore has never laughed heartily since mother died. This girl has also felt the blow of that gw awful whip; but she is a different type of a girl. She will be very merry or she will be very sad. She will seldom feel

sad, for she will not want to appear a burden in the house, so I think we will be getting the best of the whole bargain.

Mr L You are very clever, Richard, but not clever enough to hide the fact that you are smitten by her beauty.

Rich laughs, Ho man with open eyes can fail to see she's beautiful

Mr L Yes, that's so; but I only hope she's as good as she is beautiful. I know her mother was a lady, who did her best to teach
her girl right from wrong; but then, you place a good piece
of fruit alongside of a bad one, and you know the result.

The class of children she played with were low, and the class
of women that surrounded her were a mixed sort: low, ignorant
and bad. There were perhaps some good ones, but very few, very
few. That's my only fear; she may not be---

Rich puts up his hand, Don't say the rest, father; I am almost sure she is good, and it would be a crime to believe for one moment she's not all that's good.

Enter James; goes over to book-case and picks up book, he had thrown down before, looks at it and says:

Jame Did you see the girl, Richard?

Rich I did.

Jame What do you think of her?

Rich Well, I mist confess she looked pretty awkward in those rags; but then, clothes don't make the person. Enter butler.

Fred The plumber wishes to see Mr L,

Mr L All right, Fred, I will be right down. Fred leaves.

In L How, don't you two get to argueing about the girl; I think she'd have either one of you. Smiles, goes to door and leaves.

Jame Father must have great ambitions for his sons.

- Rich Take care, James; the poor girl is a vietim of cruel fate.

 You deserve no credit, as the saying goes, for being born with
 a golden spoon in your mouth any more than she deserves to
 be sneered at for being born with a tin spoon,
- Jame It's not what she was born with; it's what she was brought up with. You would nt like to wear a diamond ring than on one finger and a glass stone on another?
- Rich No, the glass could never become a diamond, no matter how hard you'd try; but if you try to polish up this girl you'll find she will be the equal to the diamond.
- Jame I should nt like to try it. I am afraid it would be a difficult job.
- Rich I am going to try it, and I am going to succeed.
- Jame as he goes to the door, Let me wish you luck in the attempt.

 Enter butler.
- Fred A fellow, looking much like a tramp, says he must see Mr Longworth at once.
- Jame Don't you know better than to come up with a message like that
- Fred Your father very often sees and speaks kindly to a tramp.
- Rich Show the man in. Fred leaves.
- Jame All these foolish things would never occur if mother were all alive.
- Rich Mother's life would have been a much brighter one had she coincided with her husband's views.

 Enter Butler with Mr Canton, Carol's father. Butler leaves.

 Canton is nervously fingering his hat, looking from one to the other.
- Rich Will you tell us who you are and what you wish?

 Mr G I-er-I am Mr Canton, Carol's father.

- Rich Ch. I see James looks sharply at Richard-I suppose you came to see your daughter?
- Mr o Well-er-not all together; I came ter see yer father.
- Rich He'll be in directly. Won't you sit down? Mr C. sits down.

 I suppose my father and you came to an agreement before Carol came here?
- Mr G Yes, but I'm sorry I let 'er go. Enter Mr L., looks at Mr G.
- Mr L Why, His Canton; what brings you here?
- Rich Mr danton is sorry he allowed darol to come here.
- Mr L He's sorry? Why, he was so happyat first, he cried with joy.
- Mr C Yes, I did think it would be fine for Carol, but I forgot meself. I ain't got nobody in the world but her, and life ain't worth livin' alone.
- Mr L But you must think of her. Think of the awful life she will lead if she goes back to you.
- here; if-if ye'll help her a little bit in her own home, she kinstay with her own father.
- Jame That's the sort of people to be kind to, isn't it Richard?
- Mr L But suppose I am not inclined to help her, if she leaves my home?
- Mr C Then she's old enough to work an' help her father.
- Enter Leonore and Carol. Carol is dressed becomingly in black, her hair arranged on back of her head; in all she looks very beautiful. As she comes forward she sees her father, and shrinks back. Her father looks at her, stands up and says:

 Mr C Well, girl have for nothin' to say ter yernfather because yer

dressed like or lady?

- dar I am surprised to see you so soon.
- Hr G So soon? Yer can't be glad ter see me, or it would nt be to soon.
- Rich comes forward, Your father came to take ym home, Carol.
- car startles, Take me home? Why, father, you were so glad and grateful to Mr Longworth for taking me in his home.
- Mr C Yes, I was; but if ye' had any feelin' you'd think a little fer yer father.

darol looks hopelessly from one to the other.

- dar in low tone. I think it would be best for me to speak to father alone.
- Mr L Very well, child; but I do not wish you to make a final masks decision before I see you. Mr L, and his children leave.
- car so you came to take me back ter that awful dungeon again?
- Mr C It was an allright home for you before yer came here; you was glad when we could pay the rent for it.
- Ves. I was glad to be able to pay the rent for it when my poor mother lived; the sight of her face was dearer to me than all these rich things. The sound of her voice was dearer to me than the clinking of all the gold they possess; and the touch of her handwas a healer for all my sufferings. But she's gone now; there is nothing home now but cold boards, and the memory of my mother's misery. She weeps.
- her of I'm home, ain't IT And I'm yer father; I never thought I'd miss yer like I do.
- car have you ever thought how you ruined my mother's life; have
 you ever thought how you broke her heart by abusing her only
 child as you did? You know as well as I know she died of a
 broken heart, and you were the cause of it.

- it o Ye' never dared ter talk ter me like that in me own home.
- dar It was nt because I respected you, but because you'd beat me in the presence of my mother, and sometimes in your drunken fury you would even beat her.
- Mr C furiously, Take care; I kin still do some beatin'.
- Car You can beat all you like now; mother can't worry any more.
- Mr 6 Now, look here, girl, I want you to some home with me. I raised ye' till yer near eighteen now, and yer need nt think I am goin' ter let yer live on honey, an' me on mid. You kin work for a livin'; there's no excuse now, yer mother don't need ye' any more.
- Car You never had any excuse for not working.
- Mr C Well, I' a-goin' ter work now. We'll both work, an' we'll save enough money ter buy some new furniture.
- Car Father, you know you killed my mother, and now you ask her child to go and live with you and toil for you. I won't do it, and if I must leave this house I will work for myself and live alone.
- He rushes toward her, intending to strike her; enter Richard.

 Rich You must necessare me for being within call; I was a little suspicious. He turns to Mr G. Your presence here is no longer required. Your daughter will remain here, as long as she singular pleases.
- Mr C smeering, She will, hey; well, she won't. I am her father, Rich. Too bad, it can't be helped. But she is old enough to have a word to say for herself.
- hir C goes to the door, There's a law for what yer trying to do here and I'll get the law ter stand by me.
- Righ We'll wait till you get it.

Mr d Yer won't have long ter wait.

Rich We'll take a charge.

deep thought, then slowly turns, comes back over to Richard, and looks him straight in the eye.

worth, my daughter is pretty, an' I kin see you've got a soft spot in yer heart for her. I want yer ter know, she's make drunkard's daughter; but she's decent, and she's honest.

when I see her agin, I expect ter find her lookin' up—he pauses—not down. He turns and walks slowly to the door; looks at daughter, and walks out silently.

Carol sits down, her eyes lowered to the floor,

Rich comes over to her, Your father isn't a bad man after all.
Car He is week, very, very week.

Rich Perhaps your mother did not try?

car she would not try, because all her young love turned to hate, when she learned he married her for her money only.

Rich But there might have been the makings of a good man in him.

dar May be that's true; but mother would never forgive him. She was such a happy girlbefore she met him; she was the idol of her home till he came along, pretending he was rich and good, he took her West, saying there he had a mine, but instead there he spent her money on drink.

Rich That was very cruel indeed; but even then she might have tried to make the best of her bad bargain.

dar I would have the same as she did; I could never forgive him.

Rich darol, your mother made a mistake, because she had no one to

teach her right from wrong. She was out in the rain with an /8

umbrella to shield her; but she might have done better by

trying to get into a house. Now, little girl, you are going to get out of the rain; I am going to show you how easy it is.

Car Mother is dead now; nothing else matters much.

Rich You are alive, and so is your father-

Leo enters, Is he gone?

Rich Yes, he's gone; but he'll come again some day, when he is in better humor. Carol will be glad to see him, so will we.

Leo You look all worn out, Carol; you're going to lie down and Thet.leave.leads her to the door. Carol looks after Richard. They leave.

Rich Poor child, what a wretched life she must have led. He lights a cigar, puffs a few seconds. Her father said she is decent and she is honest. I was almost certain of that before, but now I am sure. I want to find her looking up not down when I see her again, he said. Puffs vigorously at eigar as he stands meditating.

Enter Fred, looking very much troubled.

pred Has that fellow left?

Rich Yes.

Jame If I wereyou, Richard, I would not have that fellow around here any more.

Rich Why not? He's the girl's father.

Jame Well, that don't make him any better than he is.

Rich It won't hurt you or me to have him come in here for a few moments to see his child.

Jame He might see too much; those fellows can't stand too much of temptation.

Rich That man is honest; if he were not he would have served a sentence, and his wife and child would not have lived in such / utter poverty.

- Jame You talk like a school-boy; he never saw meal gold before.

 He knows it's here, and he gets the change to see it.
- Rich James, I wish you were less like motherwho always found something to fret about. You see, father never sees the bad before he sees the good, and he's much better off for it, isn't het
- Jame Well, I don't know about that; his time has nt come yet, perhaps it's on theway now. He is fool enough to take a little
 beggar into the house, and that I will say is nt so bad since
 I have seen her in Leonore's dress; but her father, a common
 drunkard coming in and going out—well, I hope you both
 don't regret it.
- Rich If Leonore's dress has made the girl win some favor in your eyes perhaps a suit of your or mine will have the same effect on the father.

Jame The girl is very pretty-

Rich Yes, you seem to have noticed that. He puffs at his eigar for a few mements, then walks slowly over to James. James, Mr Canton is a drunkard, but he was sober enough to say to me: Mr Longworth, my girl's pretty, but she is decent and she's honest.

Jame He said that with a purpose.

Rich Yes, but he also said: I expect to see her looking up, not down. He looks at James suspiciously.

durtain.

Scene: Same as in Act II.

Time: Two months later, about 10,30 p.m.

James is seated in large arm chair smoking. He looks very name worried and agitated; gets up and walks rapidly up and down room, as if trying to reach some conclusion,

Mame It's no use, I will have to try Richard. There's no other way; the old gent is pigheaded. He will sooner see me in jail and poney up the money, then he break his heart because I ruined his name. No, that won't do: I've got to get the money, I'll never go to jail, if I can help it.—A pause.— Richard, yes, that's the only way. He'll keep father from the knowledge as long as he can; but suppose, suppose Richard has nt got it, what then't I am up against it good and hard. If I can't lay my hands on the money somehow, there's nothing left but to blow out my brains.

Mr L enters, I thought you had gone to bed, James?

Jame I changed my mind. I want to see Richard when he gets back; has he been out long?

Mr L He is out for a walk with the girls; I don't think he will be very long, that is if the did not go to Pabst's, Richard's favorite spot.

Jame I hope he won't be long, I am very tired.

Mr L dan't you see him in the morning?

Jame No, I may oversleep; you know Richard leaves much earlier than I do.

Mr L looks at him, James, there is something wrong; you are not yourself for the last few weeks.

Jame I am all-right father. You know what you used to say to mother: don't borrow trouble, for you can't give it back.

father will take his boy's trouble, if he can, dome now, my boy, let me be your judge and jury too; perhaps the verdiet will not be as severe as you imagine.—James hesitates.—

You still hesitate? Well, I am going to guess. There are two kinds of trouble for a man: theft or love, My sen is not a thief, so, who is she, that she dare refuse my son's hand?

Jame glad to grass the hint, She is aready a wife.

Mr L shrinks back, A wife, and does she know?

Jame Yes.

Mr L Does she permit you?

Jame No, but I can't help loving her just the same.

Mr L But, my boy, your case is a hopeless one.

Jame I know, but then, I can't put her out of my life as easily as she came into it.

that's no comfort for you in your sorrow. You must brace up, there are disappointments in every man's life; very, very few escape it. He walks over to desk and opens it. Do you know, from the way you have been hanging around Carol I thought, and perhaps—

Jame Would you really accept that girl as a daughter-in-law?

in L why mot? I have learned to love that girl as if she were my own. I would be very glad to have one of my boys make her his wife.

Jame Well, Richard may accommodate you; but she'll have the advantage over him: her father-in-law would be a gentleman while 22

his would be a tramp.

Mr L. opens drawer in desk, takes out five rolls of bills, counts them, places them back in drawer, and looks the same. Mr L turns to James, If I were a tramp, would the blame be yourst Jame No, but I would keep in my place.

MrL It's no use, James; you are a chip of the old block; your mother is to blame, more than you. He looks the desk, and looks at his watch. Eleven o clock; they must be having a fine time.

Jame hesitatingly, mid, nt you go to the bank today?

- then passed by the bank forgetting to go in; but it will be allright for one night. He goes to the door, then stops. See that everything is well fastened before you go to bed; I am a little nervous about having so much money in the house, but I'd rather leave it in the desk, than keep it in one of our rooms. It won't hurt the desk to have the top smashed, but it would hurt us to have he points to top of his head—our top smashed. He laughs and leaves the room.
- Jame as door closes. Providence has worked for me; I've got the money now, Iam safe. Ch, my God, it's to good to be true. If he suspects me I am lost to him for good, but then I will have this money. and I'll do my best to throw the suspicion on that drunkard. He believes I am worried over a woman.Bah. As 12 any woman could make me as miserable as the thought of spending a few years in jail. I wonder if I could not try and get it before they get in.? It would be off my mind. He takes out a bunch of keys, goes over to the desk, tries one, then another; they do not fit. A sound is heard in the

hall. James quickly removes keys, puts them in his pocket ands sits down in chair, picks up book and pretends he is reading. Enter Richard, Leonore and Carol.

Rich I thought you said you would go to bed early?

Jame leintended toso; but then something came into my mind, I could nt rest, so I came down again.

car Too bad you did nt some among with us; we had a delightful time, did nt we, sawait Leonore?

Leo I should say we did; but I'll be blessed if I would do the same thing over again to-morrow; I am so tired, I could sleep standing up.

car I am not as tired as all that. You see, I have no been accustomed to lying on a couch all day; I am trained to walk.

Jame looking at Carol, in low tone, There's no mistake; she is a drawn deuced pretty girl. He looks at her closely.

Leo Are you coming to bed, dear?

car I will follow you in a few minutes.

Leo to Richard, as she looks in through door, Oh, it's dreadfully dark in my room; won't you go in and turn on a light, Richard?

car Oh. you little coward; come. I'll turn on the light.

Rich Ho, I'll go; I want to fix a bromo for myself at the same time. He goes to door.

Leo Good night, Carol.

Car goes over and kisses her, Good night, dear.

Leo Good night, James.

Jame kisses her, Good night. They go in.

dar I stayed to tell you something for your good, in Longworth.

Jame And I stayed to tell you, you are as pretty as a picture to-night.

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- Car I wear the same face both day and night.
- Jame I never saw you look as pretty as you do to-night. —She looks at him sharply.— What you can't get with permission don't ask for. He suddenly takes her in his arms and kisses her. She pulls away from him and gives him a hard slep in the face.
- Car I suppose in your so-called upper set you would call my action un-ladylike, but in the class I come from we call it just right. Now, he hongworth, I want to warn you before your brother comes in. I saw you fiddlin' around that desk last night; your manner betrayed you, for I saw at once that you meant theft, but you found nothing. Now, take my advise: keep away from theft. I don't warn you for your sake, but for your father's, the dearest and best of men on earth. If you're found out, he il die of a broken heart; you will be the cause of it.
- Jame Mind your own affairs.

 Richard is heard me saying: Good-night, Leonore.
- Rich enters, looks at James and Carol, Have you two been quarrelling again?
- Car Oh, nothing serious. She goes to the door, holds out hand to Richard and says: Good night, Mr Longworth.
- Rich Won't you say "good night" to James?

 Carol goes over to James and gives him her hand; he takes her hand and says Good night.
- Car goes to door, Now, don't you two get to quarrelling; I assure you, Hr Longworth, it is nothing, absolutely nothing.
 She leaves.
- Rich Looks at James, critically, Have you forgotten old Canton's

words: she's decent and she's honest?.

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- Jame Of course; you re willing to believe a girl from Cherry Hill can be deent, because you are head over heels in love with her?
- Rich I will songe this insult to that poor girl outside of this house at my earliest opportunity. You coward. You know she is good and pure, for you have just met with failure in trying to insult her.
- Jame I bet, you would nt fail; she loves you.
- Rich grinds his teeth and shakes his fist in anger. Take care, or I will forget we are in our father's house.
- Jame Richard, you are a fool. You are willing to believe an appel can grow on a chestnut tree, because the apple has pink cheeks; but it can't, I tell you, it can't. I have had more experience with these things than you. I have always been one of the real boys, while you, well, I 'm inclined to think you are a mistake; you should have been a woman. Take my advise before you ask that girl to marry you; stop to think, she the daughter of a drunkard, and a girl raised on therry Hill.
- Rich You have often collected money for rent from the poor people in Cherry Hill, and you have used it in worse places—
- Jame Well, I don't mind handling their money, but I do object to being their associate.
- Rich When you handle their money you associate with the people;
 for that money is part of themselve. Do you know how they
 earn it? Some poor devils earn shovelling snow, some by diggig
 the streets, and others by dumping the refuse from your cans
 into wagons, they are compelled to sit on. And the women?

Some of them sorub , or wash the very garments you have on your back, or-

Jameles, and some of them earn their money by lending themselves.

Rich To men like you, who refuse to help them to remain decent;

and now, listen to my last words: If Carol will accept me, I
shall anke her my wife.

Jame Oh, she'll accept you all right; you need nt worry about that.
Rich So much the better for me, He goes to door, In the future
you are to respect her as your sister. He leaves.

Jame as he looks after Richard, I don't think he will want to marry her, when he hears her afather is a thief; and he'll believe it too. Gee, but I applied I did not have to come to him for the money.—He sits thinking a few moments.—There was a robbery in this house before that fellow came here; and if the girl should tell she saw me at the desk she'll lose her pull here for insulting me. At any rate I don't care what happens here, as long as I get the money. He closes all the doors and windows, turns down the light, then calls in to Richard: Is Fred home yet? It's his night off, you know.

Rich is heard answering, Yes, he's home; he looked the doors after us.

Jame All right; I just wanted to make sure the doors were locked.

— Now, the only thing to worry about is if that girl is watching me. I she is, the only thing to do is— He walks nervously up and down the floor.—Well, I don't care what happens; I must have that money. If she catches me—oh, hell, here I am worrying over being eaught by a girl, when on the other hand I will be taken by a detective. I had better go to my room for a while, till all are fast asleep. He leaves.

carol comes rushing in, in her night robe. She is pale and trembling from head to foot; at every step she takes she cowers as if frightened into a frenzy.

I must get that money out of the drawer and place it back again, before the old man comes forit. I must, I must save the man, who gave my mother a decent burial, no matter what the end may be. She goes over to the desk; her hand trembles so, she can't find the keyhole. Suppose I am caught; I'm lost, but the old man won't know his son is a thief. She begins fumbling at keyhole; succeeds in opening desk. Now for the drawer. She takes mother key; she imagines she hears some one, and trembles with fright; stops a moment, then tries to open drawer. She succeeds and takes the five rolls of bills in a half-silent, hysterical manner. She begins to walk to the door; when she has reached about half-way James appears. Shrinks back; he then walks over to her, looks at her and sees the money.

Jame in low tone, So, that's why you warned me not to take that money? You wanted it yourself, little honest, desent girl.

car still trembling, as she clutches the money tightly. I am honest and I am decent. I took the money to save you from disgracing your father; I took it, to replace it in the morning.

Jame A pretty shory for a novel, but not for me. How did you get the keys to fif?

dar I took them from your father's coat, when he was fast asleep.

Jame A daring burglar.

Car I did it for a man who deserved my gratitude.

Jame Yes, it's fine gratitude. But we have no time to argue about 28

- that, you're likely to be caught. come now, I need the money; I must have it. I will give you one third of that money, if you will give me the rest.
- car You can't get one dollar of this money, unless you kill me.
- Jame Take care; you are not much to handle. I can get that money by giving you just one blow, but I don't want to hurt you, unless I must.
- Car I know. I know; I am only a fly to an elphant just now; but I am going to try another way. I am going to plead with you. Murely, you must have some heart, you, the son of such a man. You won't, you won't break his heart. See, I have dared take the money; I might have been caught by Richard, but I sac-rificed myself. for your father. Won't you do the same?
- Jame No, no; you don't understand the whole thing. I must have the money to keep me out of jail. Chat will be worse for the old man, won't it?
- dar Speak to your father; tell him you are in debt; he will help you.
- Jame He won't, he won't, because I gambled; and beside, it's too much. He won't give it, and I must have it, so hand over that money, before you're caught. Do it quick. You see, it's all in my favor; you opened the desk, you took the money. I have nothing to fear; so give me that money, and it will appear as a robbery. He one will suspect us.
- dar Please, please, don't try to take it from me, for I shall fight with my last breath. All the girls in Cherry Hill know how to fight, no matter how small they are.
- Jame You are a fool; you'll give it up in the end, and I don't care if you tell; because as soon as I get it I will be off. I must be offer the cold gent won't hunt me up either. so here soes.

He comes near her; she puts the money inside her robe, and draws girdle tighter. As he approaches her she tries to ward him off; she dodges him as often as possible, making some little noise.

Jame Look out, you'll wake them.

car If ther's no other way. I will wake them, but you won't get the money.

He runs over to her and grasps her hands. She tries to throw herself on the floor, face down; he tries to prevent it. When she finds she can't get down on the floor, she begins biting his hand. He bites his lips from pain, throws her from him with terrific force; she lands against chair, upsetting it.

Car screams You devil in man's clothes.

He makes an attempt to come near her.

dar picks up a chair, and screams loud, If you come near me, I 'll kill you.

moor opens; enter entire family in night robes, all showing their horror and amasement. A pause.

- Mrt to Carel, How come you and my son to be alone in my library at this hour of the night?
- car hesitatingly, I came, I came to speak to your son, James.
- hour? besides, good girls usually don't meet men at night in such soant attire.
- car in a choking voice, Oh, don't, please don't; you may think anything but that. She covers her face with her hands and sobs.
- Rich Father, your desk is open. Richard goes to the desk and opens the drawer. Your money is gone.

Mr L horrified, My money gone? My God, what does this mean?n

He looks from one to the other, then walks over to James,
looks at him searchingly, and says in low, choking tone:
James, if I thought you took that money I'd blow out my brains
Car softly. He did not take the maney in Lamanta.

dar softly, He did not take the money, Mr Longworth; I took it. Mr L. turns to dardl, shocked beyond speech.

Rich rushes forward, crying wildly, It's a lie, an outrageous lie. Father, can't you see she is shouldering his crime?

dar It's bad chough to be found out a thief without putting the blame on an immovent man. I took the money. She takes the money from her bosom. Here it is: James tried to take it from me, when you all came in.

Rich My God. He covers his face with his hands.

Lee comes over to him, and whispers: There is something behing this, Richard. Be brave, and we'll find it out.

Mr L What did you intend to do with so much money?

- dar assumes her old character, why, bless yer heart, old man; a woman never has too much money. I intended takin' my dad and a few o' my old pals out west, buy up some land, an' live with me own kind for the rest of my life. I never, never oculd be happy with this hot air around me all the time.
- Mr L goes over to James, James, it's the first time I have cause to say: it's best to leave beggars alone. I will never befriend another in all my life.
- Leo Don't say that, father, for I still believe there is some mistake.
- Mr L I need no further proof than to find the money in her possession, and hear hernsay, she was not happy in our home.

- dar takes the money and puts it on the table, Here's your money. How, that are you going to do with me, send for the police?
- Mr L No, but as soon as it is morning, I am going to send you back where you belong, back to therry Hill.
- Car walks slowly to the door, then turns, looks at them, and says:

 Cherry Hill ai'nt such a bad place as you think, he Longworth.

 You must 'nt judge all by one; and you know there's lots o'

 stealing done by big bugs, only there's money enough ter

 cover it. Well, good bye to all o' you; I'm sorry we don't

 part friends, for I must admit you've all been good ter me.

 She surpresses a sob. I could nt help it; the temptations

 was too great, an' I suppose by bringing up was the cause

 of it. Good bye, I'll be goin' as soon as the sun rises.

 She leaves.

durtain.

Scene: Same as Act I.

Time: very early in the morning.

A knock is heard on the door. He answer. Another knock; still no answer. Carel is seen looking in through the wintow. She pulls out a rag that is stuffed in the broken pane, puts her hand inside and turns catch, raises window and climbs in. The room is a rear one on the ground floor of the tenement. She closes window and looks around.

Car Father is nt in. She throws off her hat and coat. I suppose he's out on an all-night drunk. Oh, - she wails -, why have t I the courage to end it all at once. I'm week, like poor mother used to be; she held on to her wretched life as long as she could. She sits down. That shall I do now? I can't live here and see my father come home drunk and swear. No, I could nt stand that any more. She looks over to stove; sees a souttle full of coal and a basket of wood. What's this? Goal and wood, and plenty of it; then he can't be drinking, or he'd have sold this for liquor. She runs to the singt closet, opens door and looks surprised. coffee, tea and sigar and condensed milk; and look, oh, I can't believe my own eyes, a cake and jelly. Why, I'm sure, I am very sure he can't be drinking, or he would no have all these things ----A knock is heard on the door. That must be him now, No, he would not knock on his own door. She runs to the door, opens it, but stands behind it, so person coming in can not see her. Enter a boy about ten years old with a tin pot in his hand.

Car Why, Nike, since when do you come down here? Nike is so surprised he drops the coffee pot.

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- Hike Holy, smotherin' Moses, if it ai'nt carol; or is it yer ghest?

 Car It's me, Mike, all me; and I am glad to see you are calling
 on my father.
 - Mike Goo, I'm glad ye' was sorry yer went away, and come back. It was a shame ter leave yer old man all alone like dat. Hone of us in de house didint have any love for your family, 'cause you an' yer mother was so shak up; but when yer left der old guy we hold him cryin' like or kid. So we went in ter him an' we've been coming ever since.
 - for it, for now I am going to stay and work, and reward you as you deserve. Tell me, what did you have in that pot?
 - Mike Coffee. He mother sends down the coffe hot in the morning;
 you see he works nights now, he's night-watchman fer some new
 houses what's buildin'. He comes in about seven in the morning
 stiff with de cold. He ought'er be here by this time.
 - dar It was so good of your mother; I'll do my best to pay you all block. I'll make a good fire now, and he'll find it nice and warm when he gets home; and we'll all have hot coffee and cake.
 - Hike I know he's got cake all-right; he gives me a piece every time I come in.

 Carol begins building fire; while she does so she speaks to Hike.
- Hike Well, sometimes de cry because de re hungry, sometimes 'cause de re cold, an' then 'cause de re scrappin'; an' a whole lot o' times de cry just bacause de re used ter it.

dar Poor little tots; but tell me. Hike, does your father do any-

- Mike Bet yer sweet life; he's doin' a whole lot more things then we wants him ter do.
- Car What do you mean by that?
- Mike Oh, he keeps hisself busy lickin' de old woman, bossin' me an' kickin' de kids spound.
- car as she fills the soffee pot with water, Then he is nt carning anything at all, is her
- Mike Not a blamed copper.

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- car How on earth do you all manage to live?
- Mike Well, me an' Pat am' Nora we sell mapers, an' den we get some help from de Sunshine Home.
- car as she grinds coffee, Don't they try to give your father a
- Mike Sure; One o' them comes in last week an' lifts him up; he was layin' all in a heap on de floor.
- Car I did nt mean that much; I mean don't they try to reform him? I know they often tried it with my father, but could nt succeed.
- If they could nt succeed with your dad, how in hell kin day with mine?
- Car putting ground coffee in pot, by father was too weak.
- white And my father is too strong. Carol begins setting table. And that reminds me I better be goin' or he'll be tryin' his strengt' on me. He goes over to door. Wish me luck, Carol. All I make over a dollar I keeps; ye' see, I'm tryin' ter save ter buy me mother a pair o' shoes for Christmas, an' a pair o' wollen mitts for all de kids. He laughs. Gee, won't they all be swell walking out with gloves on det fists. He laughs again. Good bye for to-day, Carol: I wish I could stay an' see yer ol' man when he comes in. He'll tink de Brooklyn

Bridge hit him on de mut. He runs out.

car as she finishes dressing table, and puts things in order, so, father is a night watchman; oh, it is too good to be true. She stops to think for a few moments. I wonder what caused the change. Can it be he really loved my mother? Does he really repent? Richard's words are slowly coming home to me; perhaps if she had tried. But she did nt, I know she did nt; she despised him because he fooled her into marriage by telling her he was rich. He may have done this because he loved her, and there was no other way of getting her. —A pause.—He may have been driven to drink when he found she did not love him, but hated him with a hatred than was unchangeable. Well, she shakes her head, the miserable misunderstanding between mother and father must unjustly fall upon the child.

A key is heard fumbling in lock of door.

car That's him now. She hides in a corner.

He comes in; looks at stove, what's this? A fire, and a good roaring fire at that. Has the saints been within for me? He looks at table, And the table is all set for breakfas! I wonder some one must have come in here. A pause.—Of gourse somebody was here; the door was nt looked, for the key would not turn. Oh, maybe it's me birthday, and the Lord is surprisin me. Carol comes out from corner and slowly walks over to him. As he sees her he begins to stagger. Carol, Carol, me girl did yer come ter see yer father at last? He takes her in his arms, patting her gently on the head. Ah, me girl ye'll never know how me heart ached for thesight o' yer face again. He brushes say a tear. I know. I know I did nt deserve yer sympathy, but I was nt as had as you

think I was. Some day, when I'll be me real self again.
I'll tell yer all about it. But now, now girl, let me look at you. She raises her head slowly; he looks at her surprised, why, girl, you don't look well and you don't look happy; what's thetrouble? She lowers her head. Carel, when I sent yer to her L's home you walked with yer head up; you come back ter see me with yer head down. He goes over to her. Tell yer father, girl; is there any reason for you to be lookin' down?

- one another. We will work and we'll be very happy.
- for 0 in commanding manner, I asked ye' is there any reason for you to be lookin' down?
- Car I'd rather not answer that question just now.
- So, that's why you come back ter me per father, is it?

 He stands looking at Carol, biting his lips and clerthing his fists; then with a sudden impulse puts on hat and coat and goes to the door.
- Car rushes after him, Where are you going, father?
- hr d takes revolver from pocket, This was intended for thieves; but I am going to use on the a blackguard, much worse than a thief; a man that shamed my girl.
- dar throws arms around his neek, No, no, father; I did nt understand you, I see, I see what you mean now. You did nt think yer girl would fall as low as that, did you?
- Mr C looks at her, You did 'nt understand mo? I asked you if you had any reason for lookin' down; ye' said, yer did 'nt care ter answer that question, Well, why can't you answer that question? It would be easy for you, if yer conscience were

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good.

- Car is conscience is very good, father. She looks at him pleadingly, then leads in him to a chair. He sits down.
- Mr G If it's good you can look up.
- Gar I can look up to you, father; I can look straight in your oyes just as I did when I was five years old. But I am in trouble, in deep trouble. She leans head on his shoulder.
- Hr C Well, I am not drunk now; I'll understand ye if yer tell me.
- Car In marraid to tell, because you won't let me take the blame I'm willing to shoulder.
- Hr G You don't know about that. I've been carrying a blame on my shoulders, that did nt belong ter me, since I married yer mother. If you promise to tell me your trouble I 'll promise ter tell you mine.
- Car Tell me yours; perhaps it will give me courage.
- respace table. Much I was a poor boy; but my parents were respace table. Much I was fourteen years old I started out in life but did not get on very well; but I always found young men in better circumstances than I was to pal with. One o' me pals invited me home with him; I fell in love with his sister. He sighs. I loved her so; I could not live without her, but she would not marry a beggar. So I told her I had land in the West. We married and went there, whem she found out I was poor, she began ter hate me. She said I only married her fer her money; but it was no so, I loved her, but she began ter hate me so. I could not stand the awful looks she gave me; so I began ter drink. I did not care what became of me; I went from bad ter worse. But she stayed in her place;

She was too proud ter go home; so we both suffered, and she died still thinking I matried her fer her money. So, you see, my girl, I suffered too, when I might have been happy. How's your turn ter tell me.

car You have suffered for a crime you did not commit; so, father, am I going to suffer for a crime I did not commit, First I must remind you how kind her Longworth was to mother; he saved her from a pauper's grave. Then he took me to his home, where I was treated like his own child; but, father, he can't help having a wayward boy. James, his younger son, got into trouble He had to have money; so he tried to steal the money his father had put in the deck over night. I knew the money was there, and I knew James would steal it; so I stole the key's and took the money intending to keep it till the morning, when it would be safe to put it back. But I was caught. James, the would-be-thief, caught me. He tried hard to take the money from me; but I fought like a tigress. When I felt my strength giving out I began to scream so as to wake the family. Pather, you can guess the rest. She burles her face in his lap.

Mr D You were eaught with the money in your possession, and they are sure you are the thief.

der nods her head, Yes.

its o And you said nothing to deny it?

Car No.

Mr C And you expect me to let them go on believing it?

dar Yes; you lived with a heavy burden, why can't I?

Mr d I could not prove my innosence, but I can prove yours, and I will.

- Car Thirk of that old. grey-haired man; he will die shamed and broken hearted. You know I am innocent. What do we care for their world; we don't live in it, we won't ever meet again,
- Mr C Mr C I thought. I thought Mr Richard was rather sweet on you, and I know you liked him.
- daughter of Cherry Hill is unfit to be the wife of a man like Richard Longworth; so this was the best way to open his eyes.
- Mr C Then you think he really did care for you?
- car I am sure he did.
- Mr C Then you will right yourself in his eyes; you must tell him the truth, or I will.
- car You won't, father, you won't, for you and I will never be happy after that.
- hir o well, I don't deny they we been good to us; but girls don't pay with their honor.

A sharp knock on the door is heard. Enter Richard. Carol and her father look surprised.

Rich Am I welcome to come in?

Mr C Very welcome, Sir. Sit down and make yourself as comfortable as possible.

Carol puts on her hat and coat.

- Rich Are you going out, Hiss Carol, because I'm here; won't you shake hands with me?
- car goes over to him slowly, Do you wish to shake hands with me?
- Rich Of course I do. They shake kands; he looks straight into her eyes, she does not flinch. He draws a deep breath, and releases her hand slowly.
- Rich turns to Mr C., Did you expect Carol home today?

in and found a good fire and my table set, and my girl walking out o' that corner, I almost collapsed with joy. Of course, I ai 'nt quite so happy now— Carol tries to motion to him,—because, because—he looks over at Carol; she is motioning him to silence by putting her finger on her lips,—well, because Carol won't let me say the rest.

Rich to Carol You have told your father the truth?

Car Yes.

Righ Then why did nt you tell me the truth?

car What do you mean?

Rich Why did, nt you tell me the same as you told your father, that my brother James was the thief?

car too surprised to talk loud, who told you what I told my father

Rich You told him no lie; for James has told us the truth.

car whispers, Then he did tell thetruth after all?

Rich runs forward, No. he did not tell the truth; I tricked you into telling me the truth. He is beside himself with joy.

mich to Mr G., Mr Ganton, I love your daughter, and I came here to ask you for her hand.

Mr C trembling with emotion, Mr Longworth; my daughter is a daughter of Cherry Hill.

Rich And Cherry Hill should be as proud of her as I will be.

durtain.